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FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7423
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA PRIORITY 0011
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY 0026
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY 0009
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU PRIORITY 0006
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0012
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0008
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 0028
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY 0014
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0009
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY 0009
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY 0035
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RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR PRIORITY 0008
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RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 001536

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/18/2018

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [KTIA](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAQ SOFA NEGOTIATIONS: ROUND 2 PRODUCES SOME
AGREED TEXT

REF: BAGHDAD 1037

Classified By: Acting PolMil Counselor Karen H. Sasahara. Reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S) SUMMARY: The U.S. and Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) negotiation teams met in Baghdad April 22 to May 11. The talks have recessed at the request of the GOI, which will be sending part of its SOFA negotiating team to Turkey, Germany, Japan, and Korea to discuss with those governments the implementation of their SOFAs with the U.S. The two sides made substantial progress in negotiating the text, coming to agreement on a number of provisions. Key differences remain, including on Status of Personnel, Authorities for Combat and Detention Operations, Jurisdiction over Certain Contractors, and Taxation. The teams plan to reconvene in early June, possibly in Washington. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (S) The two sides came to agreement on the following provisions of the draft SOFA:
Article II: Pol-Mil Consultations
Article III: Respect for Laws
Article IV: Definitions: 5 of 7 paragraphs agreed
Article V: Property Ownership
Article XIII: Bearing Arms and Wearing Uniforms
Article XVII: Licenses
Article XVIII: Official Vehicles
Article XXIII: Attachments
Article XXIV: Implementation and Disputes: 2 of 3 paragraphs agreed
Article XXV: Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

[1](#)3. (S) Other articles are near agreement:
Preamble
Article I: Scope and Purpose
Article VI: Use of Agreed Facilities and Areas
Article VII: Positioning of Defense Materiel
Article VIII: Protection of the Environment
Article XIV: Entry and Exit
Article IX: Movement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Aircraft
Article XX: Currency and Exchange

Annex A: List of Agreed Facilities and Areas

¶4. (S) Articles and Provisions Requiring Substantial Additional Work:

Article X: Contracting
Article XI: Utilities and Telecommunications
Article XII: Status of Personnel
Article XV: Import/Export
Article XVI: Taxation
Article XIX: Service Support Activities
Article XXI: Claims
Article XXII: Extension to other States
Attachment 1: Combat Operations
Attachment 2: Detention Operations
Attachment: Jurisdiction over Certain Contractors

¶5. (S) COMMENT: Negotiations are proceeding at a good pace, and the teams expect to come to agreement on substantial portions of the text when they meet again in June. END COMMENT.

¶6. (U) Lead SOFA Negotiator Ambassador Loftis has cleared this message.

CROCKER